

REMARKS

The filing of the accompanying verified translation establishes entitlement of the present application to a priority date of October 13, 1998, which is the filing date of the corresponding French Application No. 98/12826.

By contrast, the applied reference to KATZ et al. 6,424,706 has a filing date, and hence a U.S. reference date, of March 31, 1999, subsequent to our French date.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over VAZVAN in view of KATZ et al. Without KATZ et al., this rejection cannot stand.

As there is no other rejection or objection, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

Robert J. Patch, Reg. No. 17,355
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

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Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- verified English translation of French Appln. No. 98/12826,
filed October 13, 1998